The Other
1943
SUMMER 2025 • VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4

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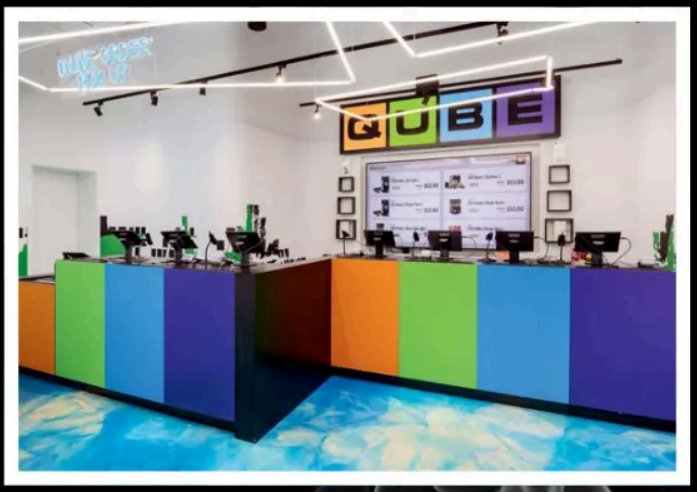

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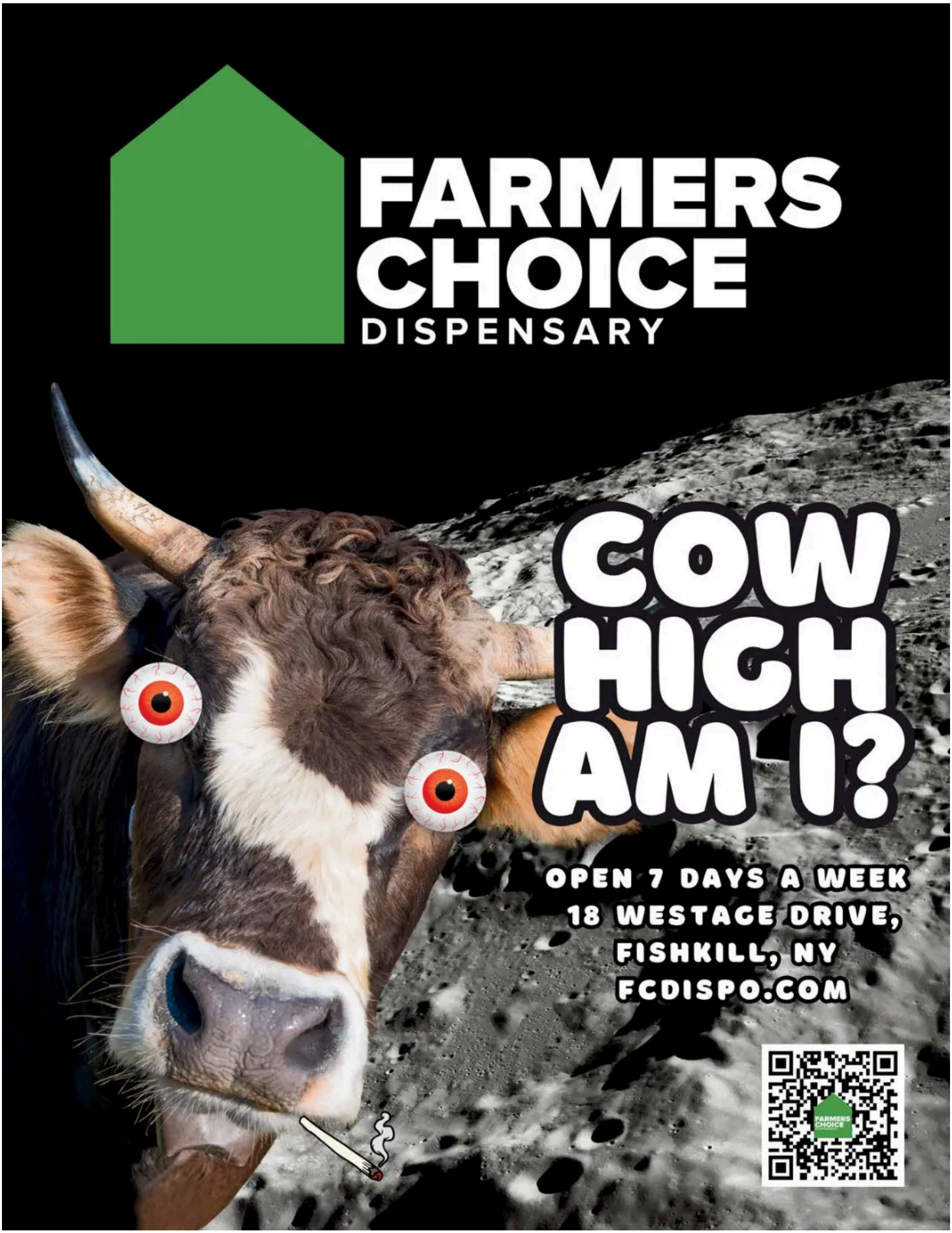
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Why 'The Other'?

The Other takes its name from **The East Village Other**, a pioneering 1960s counterculture newspaper. Like our namesake, which amplified marginalized voices, we celebrate cannabis culture's evolution from the fringes to the mainstream. Our name reclaims and honors the journey of the cannabis community from "the other"—once stigmatized and hidden—to a position of growing acceptance and legitimacy.

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CONSCIOUS MUSINGS

From Momentum to Movement

Defining What Premium Cannabis Culture Looks Like

by Peter Shafran

Eighteen months ago, we launched The Other with a bold thesis: sophisticated cannabis culture deserved sophisticated media coverage. Four issues later, we're not just proving that thesis—we're building the blueprint that defines premium cannabis lifestyle publishing.

Let me paint the picture of where we stand today. Our May 28th launch party wasn't just an event—it was a statement. Seven hundred fifty people showed up on a rainy Wednesday night, confirming what we've known all along: there's a massive, affluent audience hungry for elevated cannabis experiences.

When Dank by Definition stepped up as our lead sponsor, when The Higher Function hosted our premium dab bar, when brands like Nyce and MFNY invested in our vision—they weren't just buying event space. They were investing in cultural authority.

The numbers tell a story of sustainable growth that premium brands should notice. We've expanded from 25 distribution points to 300 locations across NYC, Long Island, and the Hudson Valley. Our Thursday newsletter reaches 10,000 subscribers with a 40% open rate—engagement numbers that luxury lifestyle brands spend millions trying to achieve.

Our social media gained 2,000 followers immediately following the launch party, proving our community extends far beyond print. We've become the chosen media partner for Cannabis Collective Retreat, Jews in Weed, Cannabis Means Business, MaryFest, and The Revelry Buyers' Club because industry leaders recognize what we've built.

This summer issue represents our expanded vision in action. In-depth retail profiles of Fishkill Cannabis, Little Beach Harvest, and HERbal Woodstock showcase the businesses driving New York's $1.58 billion cannabis market. Our coverage extends into ketamine sound therapy, psychedelics brain science, elevated recipes, music, and our popular Canna-dates series—content that speaks to the affluent, curious consumers who drive premium market segments.

Our multi-platform approach creates unprecedented value for partners: print distribution to every dispensary in our region, our newly rebuilt website positioned for digital growth, weekly newsletter penetration with measurable results, and our podcast network launching this summer with both audio and video content. Plus, our upcoming monthly event series will feature music, arts, culture, education, networking, and fun—creating regular opportunities for community engagement and sponsor visibility that deliver real ROI.

We've expanded our team with talent that understands this isn't just publishing—it's cultural influence at the intersection of cannabis, lifestyle, and luxury consumption. We're not covering trends; we're setting them. We're not documenting culture; we're creating it.

Here's what separates us from every other publication in this space: we understand that cannabis is just the entry point. Our audience wants elevated consciousness content across wellness, lifestyle, food, music, and experiences. They're the early adopters of legal cannabis who also invest in premium lifestyle products and services. They're exactly who both premium and luxury brands are trying to reach.

Four issues in, The Other has become the authoritative voice in premium cannabis culture. Industry partnerships seek us out. Premium brands are taking notice. Our community shows up—literally—when we call.

The foundation is built. The audience is engaged. The market is expanding rapidly. Now we're scaling what works and creating new opportunities for brands that understand the value of associating with authentic cultural authority.

The harvest has been abundant, but the most exciting growth is still ahead.

Onward and upward,

Peter Shafran
Publisher

The Other

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The Other Launch Party

Over 750 people showed up to celebrate our launch party on May 28, 2025 at Harbor Nightclub.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHAMAL DEARE

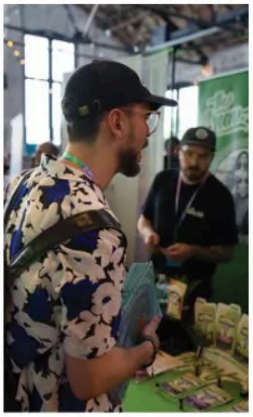
The night buzzed with creativity as attendees stepped into the Light Baths to become canvases for exploration and self-expression. Each session captured that perfect collision of art, cannabis culture, and human beauty—celebrating the community that continues to push boundaries and embrace authenticity. Special thanks to Select (www.selectelevated.com) for making this collaboration possible. For the full gallery of images, visit our website.

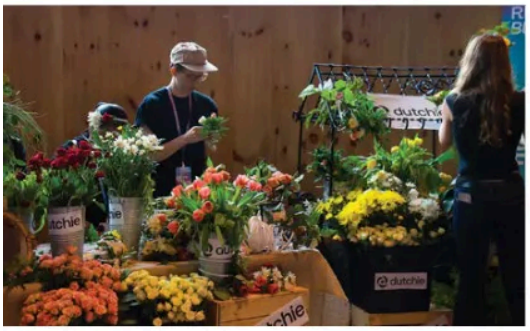
LIGHT BATHS BY JARID BLUE

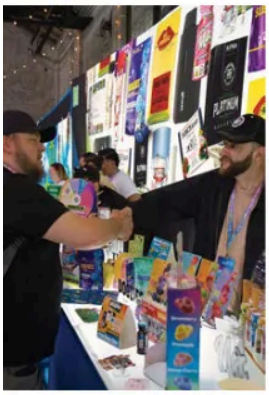
Revelry Buyer's Club

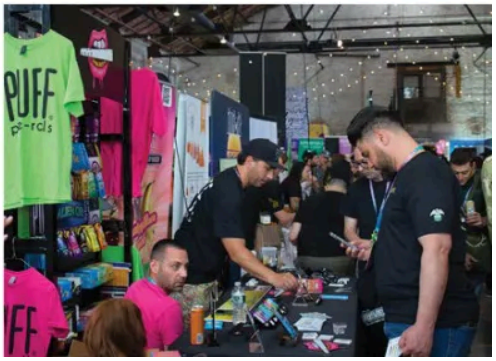
When 1,600 cannabis professionals descended on Basilica Hudson for the event, the historic venue became the pulsing epicenter of New York's cannabis revolution. Intimate business conversations sealed major distribution deals, while spontaneous celebrations erupted among industry veterans and newcomers alike. Every corner buzzed with the electric energy of a community that's not merely surviving—it's thriving. Celebrity appearances by J.R. Smith and Mike Tyson underscored how cannabis culture has transcended its underground origins. The 150-plus brands connecting with 310 retailers demonstrated that NY's green economy thrives on authentic relationships rather than mere transactions. These moments documented the birth of an industry where collaboration trumps competition.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY OTILIO MONTERO





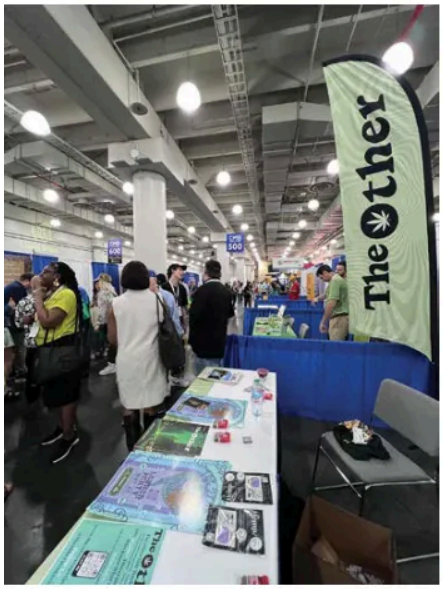




Cannabis Means Business

NYC's premier cannabis industry conference delivered networking gold at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center. Over three days of high-stakes business development, deal-makers and decision-makers forged meaningful connections that will shape the industry's future.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALAN GREENWALD



THE STONED SISTERHOOD

Reframing the Female Stoner

More adults than ever are using plant medicine. For the first time in recorded history, women are smoking more weed than men.

by Rachel Port & Alan Greenwald

For the first time, female respondents aged 19-30 reported higher past-year cannabis use than males in the same age group, according to Monitoring The Future. Cannabis use reached historically high levels among adults aged 19-30 (42.4%) and 35-50 (29.3%), while Adderall use hit an all-time low in 2023. This gender reversal represents a fundamental cultural shift in how women relate to cannabis, wellness, and their own agency. I asked several women about their relationships with cannabis, and their stories reveal a complex tapestry of medical discovery, cultural resistance, personal empowerment, and generational change.

Andrea Bojórquez, a muralist and painter from Mexico, who approaches cannabis as an integral part of her artistic practice and wellness routine, using it to maintain healthy boundaries between creative intensity and physical self-care.

Medical Discovery and Wellness Revolution

Today's female cannabis users embrace the plant for specific wellness purposes, marking a departure from recreational stereotypes. Nyh manages her autoimmune disorder and chronic inflammation with cannabis, finding it an effective substitute for opioids after hip replacement surgery. "I have an autoimmune disorder which causes a lot of inflammation and sometimes I have a fairly stressful job," she explains.

Shannon discovered intentional use after having her second child. She applied for her medical marijuana card and began daily microdosing. The results surprised her: "What initially started as consuming for my mental health, my physical health has benefited, I've lost weight even." Her autoimmune arthritis flares became less aggressive when cannabis-improved sleep reduced overall stress.

Andrea uses cannabis as a "decompression tool" that helps maintain healthy boundaries with her art practice. Padmaja, drawing on her medical background, notes that "most people have some reason they consume it—they just didn't know."

Shannon, a New Jersey mother and entrepreneur behind Leafcase™ cannabis accessories. She leads advocacy work through This Is Jane Project, expanding affordable cannabis access for trauma survivors while supporting decriminalization efforts.

Challenging the Wine Mom vs. Weed Mom Narrative

Shannon observes a persistent double standard: "Society still praises the wine mom and condemns the weed mom." This cultural inconsistency reveals biases about acceptable maternal stress relief. While alcohol consumption among mothers is normalized through "wine mom" culture, cannabis use remains stigmatized despite often superior safety profiles.

The intersection of motherhood and cannabis creates unique challenges. For Kylie, using cannabis as a mother makes her "more playful, more present, and less reactionary," but it still makes her late and forgetful, which is tough as a mom, when you need to be "three steps ahead in your day, and if you're not there are meltdowns."

Shannon describes being chastised by a dispensary manager in front of her children, highlighting systemic discrimination mothers face accessing this medicine. "Parents can take their children with them to the liquor store or pharmacy, but how are we supposed to pick up our medicine?"

When Shannon decided to educate her children about her medical cannabis use, she "fully embraced being out of the green closet," representing a generational shift toward transparency over shame.

Kylie, a New York City public school teacher, expert cannabis trimmer, and mother.

PJ, who opened ANJA dispensary in New Jersey, brings a unique perspective as both a trained ER doctor and cannabis entrepreneur, bridging medical expertise with industry experience.

Industry Representation Gaps

Despite increased female participation, representation in cannabis culture and marketing remains lacking. Nyh feels "mostly everything outside of those cute pre-roll packs are all geared towards men." Alexa notes that while there's more visibility for women, it's often "surface level—curated to appeal to a trend rather than speak to real, nuanced experiences."

Shannon sees promise in women "collaborating and organizing together," but wants more women in decision-making roles and better access to venture capital funding.

Kylie claims that "all the best trimmers are women." She had only ever worked with two female growers, who allegedly were awful because they had to "be men" in order to thrive in the industry. "Have you seen weed stores and brands? It is so clearly a man calling all the shots," she adds. It makes her eyes roll.

Daily Rituals and Intentional Use

These women describe varied but intentional consumption patterns. Shannon microdoses from a Blazy Susan preroll with her daytime strain, then switches to a nighttime strain in the evening. She consumes outside to disconnect and avoids her phone during sessions. "Some of my best decision making has occurred during those sessions."

Alexia treats evening cannabis like others might pour wine: "It's a daily routine for me. I've always enjoyed the intentionality and ritual of rolling a joint, packing a bowl. It marks the transition into relaxation."

Consumption methods vary based on needs. While many prefer smoking for immediate effects, others use edibles for discretion or topicals for targeted pain relief. Nyh notes how her relationship with different methods evolves: "Sometimes one method works well with my body while others don't."

Nyh, an experiential producer residing in Brooklyn who loves the vibe when enjoying cannabis together in a group.

Redefining Feminine Cannabis Use

Alexia reflects on how cannabis helped her "push back on norms around productivity, perfectionism, and femininity," instead prioritizing "presence, self-expression and peace." This represents using cannabis not just for medical relief, but as a tool for rejecting toxic productivity culture.

Andrea challenges traditional femininity directly: "We've been conditioned not to do certain things as women, smoking weed is one of them, is not 'ladylike,' but honestly what is more ladylike than [to] tap into your intuition, being calm and inward."

This philosophical shift reframes cannabis use as inherently feminine—a tool for introspection and emotional intelligence rather than masculine rebellion.

Many women describe similar transformations from stigma to acceptance, discovering cannabis benefits when they approached it on their own terms rather than through male-dominated recreational contexts.

Cultural and Racial Intersections

Cannabis stigma varies dramatically across cultural lines. Nyh, who is African American, explains that in her community, "aunts and uncles still really frown on cannabis usage due to the stigma from when they grew up. 'Potheads' and 'Crackheads' were synonymous and meant you were degenerate and dangerous." Similarly for Alexia, as a Mexican woman growing up in a traditional family in Texas, smoking weed was categorized at the same level as any other drug.

PJ faced intense family opposition despite coming from India—"ironically one of the earliest places cannabis was consumed." In traditional Indian culture, "only sadhus (religious men) used cannabis." The transformation came when she opened her dispensary: "My mom was good and even shared her enthusiasm with her friends. My conservative step-dad came to our annual 4:20 event."

As a white bi-but-straight-passing woman, Kylie knows she is privileged in that she can fly under the radar and is less likely to be discriminated against or have cops to notice her at all.

"I see and know this and am grateful! I know it is unfair and different for many other identities. This is sad and I hope it continues to change. That being said, growers are usually white men... they still rule the world. White men seem to be the ones who can fund major grow projects. I know this is changing but it is not yet apparent to me."

Shannon acknowledges her white privilege: "I recognize that my race allows me certain privileges that aren't often granted to the BIPOC cannabis community."

Alexa, a Brooklyn-based event sales manager at The Second City and proud dog mom to Pearl.

Personal Transformation and Healing

Cannabis offers profound psychological benefits beyond symptom management. Andrea credits the plant with teaching her stillness. "I used to live in anxiety and didn't even know it, just trying to rush everything. I learned how to slow down and weed gave me the comfort to do it without feeling guilt of not being productive 24/7."

Alexa describes cannabis bringing "relief, reflection, playfulness," helping her navigate difficult periods while deepening creativity. "It brings me back to myself—and that is something I will always be grateful for."

Shannon's transformation extends to professional identity: "Weed has brought me confidence and clarity, it brought me community and education, it brought me purpose." Her cannabis use led to advocacy work expanding affordable access for women and nonbinary trauma survivors.

Alexia, a Clinical Psychology master's student at Columbia University, represents the new generation of women approaching cannabis through both academic understanding and personal experience.

The Broader Cultural Shift

This surge reflects broader transformations around women's autonomy and health advocacy. Shannon connects the trend to women's economic power: "Women make up almost 80% of purchasing decisions and are more conscious of healthy habits."

The timing isn't coincidental. As women gain economic independence and challenge gender roles, they're reclaiming agency over wellness choices. Cannabis becomes part of rejecting pharmaceutical dependence and male-dominated culture.
Nyh captures this liberation: "Women have to go through SO MUCH and now that the stigma is removed I think we're feeling more free."

The mental health crisis among young women—driven by social media, economic uncertainty, and political turbulence—creates demand for accessible wellness solutions. Cannabis offers immediate relief for anxiety and depression that might otherwise require expensive therapy or prescription medications with significant side effects.

Wellness-Focused Consumption

The data confirms what many suspected—women aren't just catching up to men in cannabis use; they're leading a cultural shift toward intentional, wellness-focused consumption. This "stoned sisterhood" is redefining what it means to be a female cannabis user: thoughtful, medical, empowered, and unapologetically authentic.

The reversal isn't just statistical—it's cultural, representing women's growing comfort with prioritizing their own wellness and challenging long-held stereotypes about feminine behavior. As these women demonstrate, cannabis isn't about rebellion anymore; it's about reclaiming agency, managing health, and creating space for authentic self-care in an increasingly demanding world.

HIGH EXPOSURE AGENCY

THE HIGH-LITE SAVANNAH MILES

by Annette Fernandez and Kassia Graham

The High-Lite is a series created by the High Exposure Agency to shine a light on the advocates, founders, farmers, legislators, dispensary owners, processors (and more) who are building the New York cannabis market.

Savannah Miles is the lead photographer and creative director of Pressed Productions—a media and event production company born out of their deep love for storytelling, advocacy, and community. A Bronxite and lifelong creative, Savannah's journey in cannabis began via their organizing and advocacy work with the Bronx Defenders.

What is your mission in cannabis?
My mission in cannabis started as an inaugural staff member at the Bronx Cannabis hub, helping justice-impacted people apply for CAURD licenses. It shifted when I noticed the gap in documentation of the history unfolding both within our organization and in the cannabis community as a whole. There wasn't anyone who reflected the community capturing their narratives, and I was pressed about that. So, I founded Pressed Productions as a way to authentically capture and change the narrative of what it means to be a cannabis entrepreneur today, while simultaneously deconstructing the stigma of yesterday.

What's it like to own an ancillary business in New York?
It is as rewarding as it is challenging. It is an interesting place to be, but the community here is truly like no other.

What's your wish for the industry in New York in the next five years?
My wish for the industry is for it to stay true to its promise of equity, especially for programs like CAURD. We're seeing equity missions fail across states then MSOs swoop in. I don't want New York to be added to that list. The market should remain for New York by New Yorkers.

What is your favorite strain?
Grand Daddy Purp

What is your favorite form of consumption?
An old fashioned cypher with friends; on the stoop, in the staircase... just jays and jokes floating around.

Organizations Growing Together

The C(annabis) Cosmology

The C Cosmology

The C(annabis) Cosmology is an R & D and educational platform which approaches the industry via a regenerative framework. They encourage the exploration of the cannabis plant and all its forms for human consumption, as well as biomass use.

Change Food For Good

Change Food for Good.

Change Food for Good was founded with the mission of "making sustainable agricultural technology more accessible to areas affected by food insecurity." They utilize technology and advanced farming methods to empower the next generation of urban farmers.

We Grow NYC

WE GROW NYC
Cultivating Knowledge, Building Green Communities

We Grow NYC's mission is to teach and support sustainable, community-building urban growing practices. The organization emphasizes inclusivity and accessibility as they endeavor to create a future where urban growers are not limited by space, quality, or access.

Retail Profile

Community Roots

How Fishkill Cannabis is Transforming Lives

by Alan Greenwald

Angel Figueroa's journey from cannabis conviction to respected business owner illuminates how second chances can transform lives and communities alike in New York's emerging legal cannabis landscape.

In 2018, Figueroa faced prosecution for cannabis cultivation, followed by personal setbacks that clouded his future. Everything changed when a friend, recognizing his profound understanding of the plant, suggested applying for a retail license through the state's new justice-focused program for those previously impacted by prohibition.

"This industry has completely changed my life," Figueroa reflects with evident gratitude. "I've gone from being penalized for cannabis to building a legitimate business around it." Without retail experience, he embraced a steep learning curve, mastering everything from inventory systems to the nuanced art of customer education.

His business philosophy revolves around a practice learned from former mentors: express gratitude daily and more blessings will follow. This principle, reinforced through his study of manifestation, shapes every interaction at Fishkill Cannabis, formally known as Gratitude Buds, since its May 2024 opening.

"My focus remains beautifully simple—understand each person's needs and ensure they leave better than they arrived," he explains. This authentic approach has quickly resonated throughout the community, building a loyal following who appreciate his personalized guidance.

The thoughtfully curated product selection balances local brands like Dank, alongside popular offerings such as Sour Diesel by Untitled, minor cannabinoid enhanced gummies by Off Hours from No Wave, and artisanal THC beverages from Ayrloom.

"We're creating more than transactions here," Figueroa emphasizes. "This is a sanctuary where people arrive smiling and depart even happier. I'm privileged to guide them toward solutions uniquely suited to their needs."

This people-centered vision, powered by profound appreciation for his fresh start, has established Fishkill Cannabis as a vital community resource—living proof that past challenges can become the foundation for meaningful transformation.

Retail Profile

Where the Past Meets the Plant

HERbal Woodstock Carries Forward a Legacy of Consciousness

by Peter Shafran

Standing on Tinker Street in Woodstock, watching tourists pause at HERbal Woodstock's windows, you can almost feel history settling around you like morning mist. This isn't just another dispensary—this is cannabis coming full circle where counterculture first bloomed into mainstream consciousness.

Melissa Gibson, the 60-year-old former USA snowboarding champion, has transformed what was once Jurita's Florist into something honoring both the town's psychedelic past and wellness-focused present.

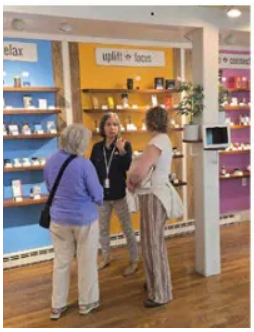
"It feels very special to be a part of the historical and cultural entrenchment and attachment between cannabis and Woodstock," Gibson reflects, gesturing toward hemp root displays cascading from the ceiling like natural chandeliers.

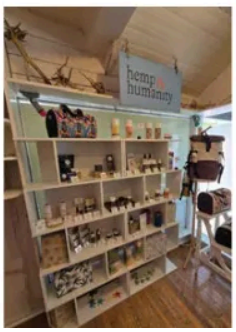
Gibson's journey began with a 2014 health crisis. After developing multiple autoimmune disorders—celiac disease, Lyme disease, and Graves' disease—she discovered CBD's therapeutic potential.

"I was looking for a natural solution to my health conditions, and I discovered how CBD could help me," Gibson explains. "I started taking it therapeutically—large doses on a regular, consistent basis. All those disorders either went to full remission or at least their symptoms lessened."

This transformation sparked a broader revelation. "When I learned that you can grow hemp in three months and yield fiber that can disrupt extractive industries like lumber, I thought, why chop down a tree that's been growing for 50 years when you can grow hemp quickly and sustainably?"

In 2016, Gibson launched Hemp and Humanity, bringing CBD education to farmer's markets before it became mainstream. When COVID hit, she opened a Woodstock space that would become her permanent home. When New York legalized cannabis in 2021, Gibson faced a crucial decision: could a hemp store survive once dispensaries offered THC products?





"It always seemed absurd to me that we were separating the plant into its parts," she reflects. "The idea of bringing the whole plant back together again was really the driving force." Partnering with Courtney Beaupre, Gibson secured her license in June 2024. HERbal Woodstock opened March 31, 2025.

HERbal Woodstock feels more like an apothecary than a typical dispensary. Products are organized by desired effects: "Relieve and Recover," "Sleep and Relax," "Uplift and Focus," and "Vibe and Connect."

"We're not about selling you a brand," Gibson emphasizes. "We're about figuring out—almost like a matchmaker—which products are best for you."

This approach resonates with Woodstock's older demographic rediscovering cannabis after decades away. "So many folks say, 'I used to smoke a lot when I was younger and then it didn't serve me in my daily life' or 'I had kids and didn't want them to know.' Now they come back to cannabis, and the landscape has completely changed."

Gibson starts each day with a full-spectrum cannabis tincture for focus and mood management. As someone "sensitive" to THC, she's become "the queen of cutting things in half or quarters."

"I like the idea of a strength that enables you to enjoy the ritual of the plant," she explains. "When you have a full-spectrum product or live rosin, you're getting all the terpenes, all the cannabinoids."

"We call ourselves the destination dispensary," Gibson explains. "You can come here to enhance those experiences, but we encourage you to eat at our restaurants and participate in the activities. We want to be part of the community in a way that supports each other."

Standing in her shop, surrounded by hemp roots epresenting decades of advocacy, Gibson embodies continuity between cannabis's radical past and promising future.

"We didn't just come into Woodstock and say we're going to make our fortune as a dispensary," Gibson emphasizes. "We've already been here, we know the people, we know the town, and we honor its spirit."

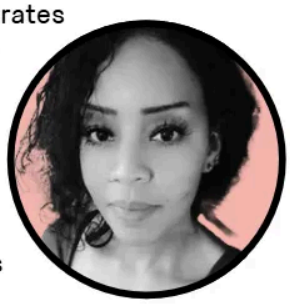
In an industry often driven by venture capital and expansion, Gibson offers a model where the plant's full potential can unfold naturally, just like the movement that first took root in these hills over half a century ago.

The source for all things cannabis

New York Cannabis Product Reviews

by Veronica "Vee" Castillo

As summer reaches New York State, the cannabis market enters its most vibrant period of the year. The Empire State's adult-use market now has an estimated 12,000+ unique cannabis products across 200 or so active dispensaries, with cultivation facilities operating at full capacity during these peak growing months. This seasonal abundance offers consumers exceptional variety: from sun-grown outdoor harvests in the Hudson region to innovative concentrates being developed in state-of-the-art extraction facilities throughout the state. In this issue, we examine three cannabis products that capture the essence of New York's summer cannabis season.



1

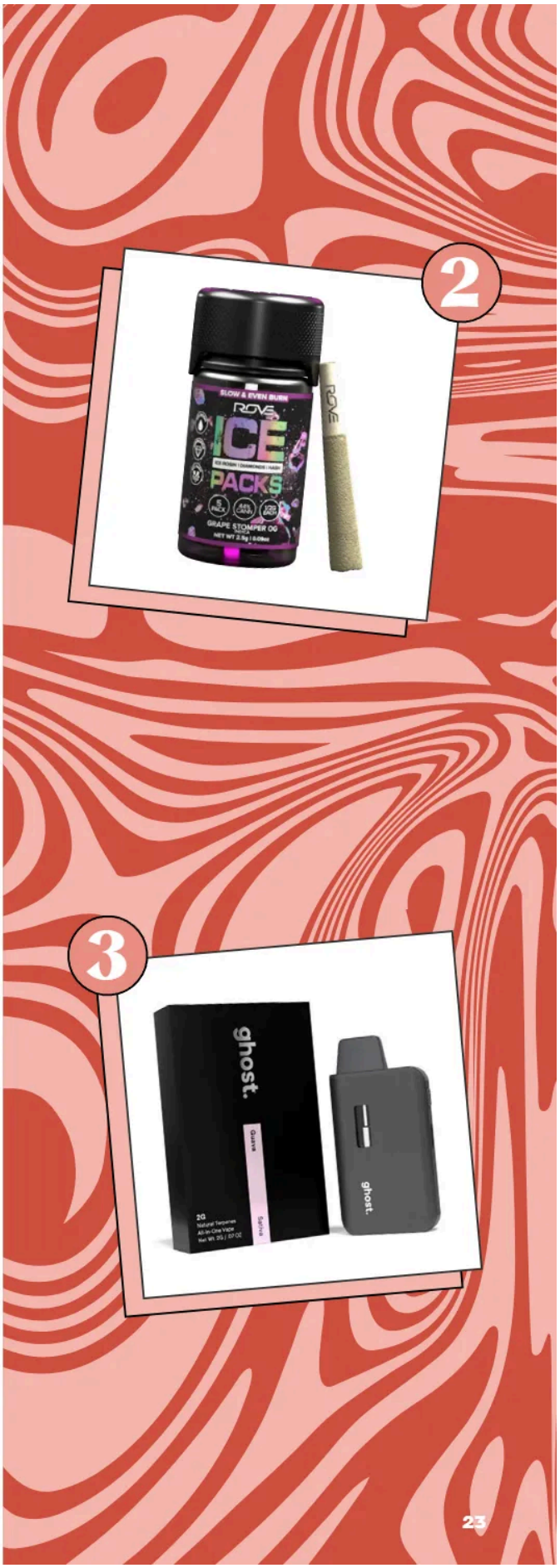
Brand: Smokiez Edibles
Product: Cannabis Infused Tropical Fruit Chews
Rating:

A vegan fruit chew that takes you to paradise with noticeable flavor combinations of coconut, passionfruit, mango, papaya, and pineapple. Each package contains 10 chews at 10mg each, totaling 100 mg per pack. The sativa-dominant formulation gave me a noticeably uplifting effect. Consuming one chew during the day resulted in a functional high that maintained productivity while creating a floating sensation. Two chews in the evening provided a more zen experience. The higher dose gave me a pleasant mental state while relaxing my body significantly. A dose of 20 mg gave me colorful dreams. The effects align well with the sativa labeling, offering both daytime functionality at lower doses and more immersive experiences at higher amounts.

2

Brand: Rove Ice Packs
Product: 1g, Grape Stomper OG: Ice Rosin + Diamonds + Ice Hash, Pre Roll
Rating: ⚜⚜⚜⚜⚜

Rove's delicious triple-infused pre-roll combines ice rosin, diamonds, and ice hash for a potent smoking experience. At 4.46 mg THC and 4.24mg CBD, this one gram pre-roll delivers significant cannabinoid content. The grape flavor profile comes through on each inhale, offering a smooth smoking experience with clean white smoke and ash. The package's "Slow & Even Burn" claim proves accurate and the pre-roll maintains consistent combustion without frequent relighting or harsh pulls. Morning consumption produced a notably clear-headed high. My thoughts leaned toward technical and systematic thinking, rather than purely creative ideation. The experience remained manageable and functional throughout, but I should mention that my tolerance is on the higher side. Given the high potency, those with lower tolerance should consider evening consumption or reduced intake.



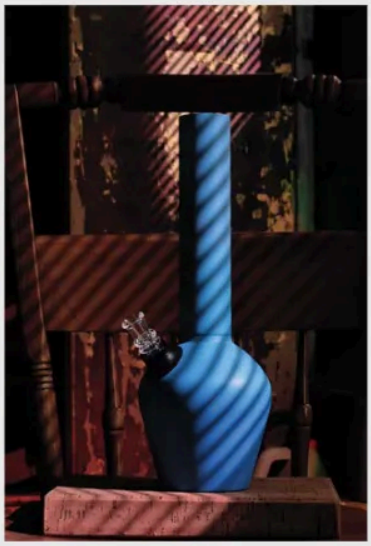
3

Brand: Ghost Extracts
Product: 2g, All-In-One, Guava Flavored Vape
Rating: ⚜⚜⚜⚜⚜

A high-potency vaping experience with guava-flavored sativa cartridge, perfect for summertime vibes. The two-gram all-in-one device contains 91.5% THC and 0.26% CBD, enhanced with natural terpenes for flavor. The package marketing mentions "lighten the body, free the spirit," which translates to noticeable physical lightness and a floating mental state during consumption. The sativa effects produced an elevated, cloud-like sensation that felt both uplifting and detached from physical weight. The natural terpenes create an authentic fruit taste that remains consistent throughout the session without becoming cloying or artificial. The vapor is smooth and flavorful on each draw. Tip: Beginners/lower tolerance, start at one or two inhales and give it five to ten minutes before consuming more. As a high tolerance consumer, it took four inhales and I was up.

HIGH PRAISE

by Kait Caridi



Chill Steel Pipes:
Sleek, Modern & Built to Last

Let's talk about something too many of us know all too well: that moment when a beloved glass bong tips off the coffee table or slips through your fingers and meets its inevitable fate. The heartbreak is real. But what if I told you that you never have to go through that again?

Enter Chill Steel Pipes—a sleek, modern reimagining of the traditional bong that's not only functional, but actually built to last. This isn't your college roommate's crusty old piece, rather the first of its kind: A food-grade stainless steel, double-wall vacuum-insulated water pipe that keeps your sessions ice-cold for up to 12 hours. Yes, 12. Hours.

And it's not just cold—it's clean. The ceramic-coated interior makes for an easy rinse between uses, so you're not spending your Sunday scrubbing out resin. Honestly, it's the easiest bong I've ever cleaned, and that alone makes it worth the price tag.

One thing I really love? You can mix and match the neckpieces to fit your style or mood. It's modular, so you can build a look that suits you—sleek and minimal, or bold and fun. It's one of the few cannabis accessories that actually blends in with my home decor, instead of hiding in a cabinet or drawer.

But what makes Chill even more special is the heart behind it. The late founder, Rich Gonzalez, poured his vision and heart into this product. Chill Steel Pipes was his passion project, a response to the lack of innovation in a space that desperately needed it. Rich passed away from cancer last year, but his legacy lives on through this beautifully designed and endlessly functional piece.

This bong has quickly become a staple in my routine—whether I'm unwinding with a good book, sharing a few hits with friends, or just taking a quiet moment to myself. This grown woman's bong is durable, chic, and effortless.

If you're ready to elevate your smoke sessions with something that honors both your lifestyle and the legacy of someone who truly cared, Chill Steel Pipes is worth every penny.

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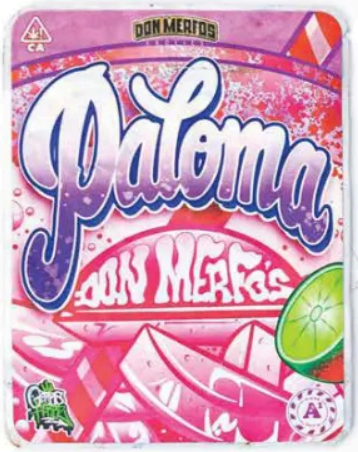
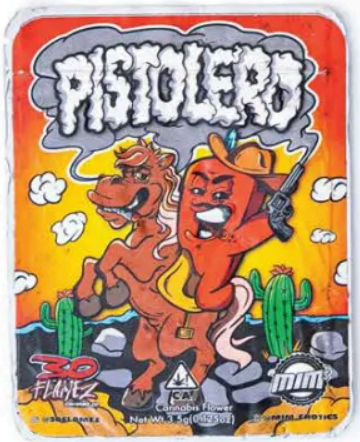
DRAGON FRUIT
SOUR WATERMELON

0.125oz is the average weight of a bag of cannabis flower that can be purchased in one of the many smoke shops now filling the streets of Brooklyn. Once emptied of their contents, these shiny and eye-catching objects, ephemeral remnants of this cultural revolution, are often discarded on the ground.



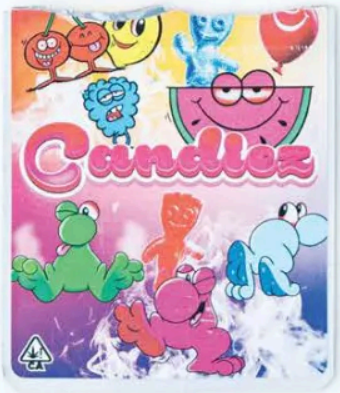
Vincent Pflieger, aka Streetadelic, a New York-based photographer, witnessed these sachets gradually littering the sidewalks of neighborhoods such as Williamsburg, Bushwick, Bed-Stuyvesant, Greenpoint, and Ocean Hill. Over the course of three years, during his daily wanderings, he collected, cleaned, and archived his harvest.

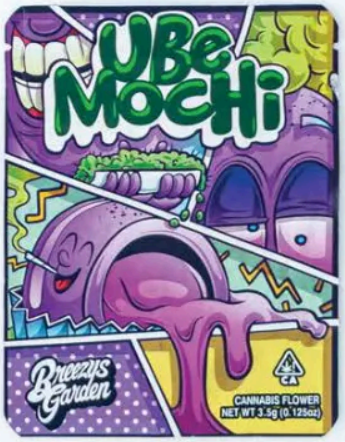


One, then two, then ten, then 100, then nearly 2000 sachets.

Chronicle of an era and a new form of aesthetics, this new visual and cultural language is compiled in a book accompanied by a magazine.

The project has been produced by Studio 3.5 Grams, and the book is designed by Simon Douaire.





Photographer : @streetadelic
Project : @0.125oz
Studio: @studio3.5g

Queenee's KONCENTRATE KORNER

Review of Double Dab Live Resin Duo from Raven's View Genetics: Sister's Cheese and Apricot Scone

Raven's View Genetics quietly dropped a resin—the Double Dab Live Resin Duo featuring Sister's Cheese (indica) and Apricot Scone (sativa). Each package gives you two 0.5g jars of premium butane hash oil (BHO) live resin, packed with flavor, terpenes, and smooth effects.

by Queenee Da Kritic

Let me tell you: this was a full entourage effect experience.

Starting with the Apricot Scone, this sativa came through with an uplifting, focused feeling. The color had that classic resin look, but the taste? No BHO harshness. Whether I used my traditional glass rig or my Puffco Peak Pro, the flavor was consistent, smooth, and enjoyable. I felt the effects kick in within two minutes—a wave of focus and energy that carried me for about 4.5 hours with a super gentle come-down. It was packed with caryophyllene, valencene, and humulene, giving it that fruity, earthy profile.

Now, the Sister's Cheese—this indica was something else. Even though it's technically BHO, it didn't look, smell, or taste like what you'd expect from a classic BHO concentrate. It actually gave off more of a rosin (solventless) feel. Again, I tested both in my glass rig and in my Puffco Peak Pro, but I found the glass rig delivered a fuller body taste and thicker clouds. Sister's Cheese is heavy on terpinolene, caryophyllene, and myrcene, which gives it a floral, peppery aroma and a deeply relaxing effect.

For both, I kept my temps at 520°F on the glass and 510°F on the Puffco Peak Pro.

What really made this double dab exciting for me was being able to mix and match—you get two different strains in one box, which means you can craft multiple experiences. When I combined them at a 1:1 ratio, it created a hybrid effect that left my body completely relaxed but kept my mind sharp and focused—which, as Queenee, I need to be able to juggle everything on my plate.

On top of that, both gave me noticeable anti-inflammatory relief, calming down my fibromyalgia symptoms and even helping my bladder relax (something I struggle with due to stage four endometriosis).

Final Queenee thought? This Double Dab Live Resin Duo isn't just about getting high—it's about getting balanced. Whether you want to uplift your mood, relax your body, or create a custom hybrid experience, Raven's View Genetics delivers something versatile and high-quality. Definitely a must-try for concentrate lovers looking to elevate their day.

Harnessing Summer's Fire

Rituals to Boost Energy & Vitality

Ritual ways to connect with the summer energy, focusing on encouraging growth and vitality.

by Asa Angel

As the wheel of the year turns, we reach the fiery peak of Summer, a time that has been ritually observed by cultures around the world since the Stone Age. During this season, we often find ourselves drawn to the light, to movement, and to joy. This is the season of action – seeing the dream seeds and literal seeds we planted in the Spring burst forth.

Behind the scenes of our active social calendars and outdoor excursions, something incredibly small is at work. A beautiful little molecule called serotonin floods our bodies as we are exposed to sunlight. With this increase, we experience many benefits: our mood lifts, our thoughts sharpen, our hearts open. It's as though the entire cosmos is supporting us in making the most of this time, helping us connect more deeply with one another, complete our plans, and nourish ourselves for the days ahead.

When we allow ourselves to be nourished by pleasure, connection, and beauty, we build the inner reserves needed to face life's inevitable challenges. This isn't just about feeling good, although what's wrong with enjoying life's pleasures? It is also about filling our cups, which we can draw on in the harder seasons of our lives.

1 SUNLIGHT MEDITATION

Light is considered one of the great healers in traditions across the globe. Additionally, the serotonin that comes with increased light not only improves mood, but also supports full body healing.

- *Find a peaceful place somewhere outside where you can sit safely in the sun.*
- *Allow yourself to close your eyes.*
- *Feel the sunlight pouring down over your body and imagine it shining into every part of your being.*
- *As it melts down, feel your muscles soften and your cells regenerate.*
- *Imagine the light gently burning away anything that is no longer serving you, opening up pathways to new, invigorating energy.*

2 ENJOY TOUCH, LAUGHTER, MUSIC, MOVEMENT

Our bodies are the doorway to healing. Give yourself over to the sensuous pleasures of the season.

- *Dance freely, laugh deeply, hug often. Hugs release oxytocin which boosts the effects of the surge in serotonin we are receiving.*
- *Make a "good times" playlist with every song from every good moment of your life. Inviting these feelings will fill you up and nourish you.*
- *Let your nervous system remember how it feels to feel good, rewiring it for ease and health.*

3 REFLECT THROUGH JOURNALING

Personal reflection can offer illumination and healing for your path ahead. Here are some thoughts to consider:

- *What is blooming in me right now?*
- *Where in my life am I being asked to shine more fully?*
- *What does sacred joy look like for me this season?*

Our bodies are designed for enjoying this existence, and Summer is the season that amplifies that truth. By intentionally observing this seasonal shift, as our ancestors did, we support our own healing. During this season we remember that healing, and life, doesn't always have to be heavy. Instead, it can be radiant.

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COOKING WITH CANNABIS

by Daniela P. Baker Extraordinaire

Chocolate Chip Tahini Cookies

Pictured here with plastachios & plastachio butter

I grew up in a family where we enjoyed home cooked meals and homemade baked goods—weeknight dinners, birthday cakes, holiday cookies—you name it. Baking became my safe space. There's something about the precision, the chemistry, and the satisfaction of building something from scratch and seeing the cookie dough come to life that brings me happiness. As someone who struggles with anxiety, cannabis has been a helpful tool in my wellness routine, and I've found joy in developing recipes that not only taste incredible but also support a more relaxed, present state of mind. This cookie recipe brings all of that together: warmth, comfort, and just a touch of elevation.

These chocolate chip tahini cookies are rich, nutty, and satisfying. I use a mix of bread flour and all-purpose flour to give them a perfect chewy texture—it's my favorite baking hack. Browning the butter adds a nutty, caramelized depth that pairs beautifully with the tahini and dark chocolate.

I infuse ½ cup of clarified butter with 1 gram of 15% THC decarboxylated flower, yielding about 150mg THC total. For the cookies, I use just 2 tbsp of the cannabutter mixed with regular browned butter to maintain the full flavor. Cookies contain a consistent, manageable 5mg THC—perfect for winding down.

Whether you're canna-curious or a seasoned edible explorer, these cookies offer a delicious and intentional way to experience the therapeutic benefits of cannabis. They're the kind of dessert that satisfies your sweet tooth while also giving you a little bit of peace. Stay present, stay sweet.

18 SERVINGS
(~5mg THC per serving)

INGREDIENTS:

Dry Ingredients:
1 cup bread flour
¾ cup all-purpose flour
2 tbsp kosher salt (or 1½ tsp table salt)
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp espresso powder

Butter & Sugar Base:
1 cup unsalted butter (2 sticks)
Includes 2 tbsp cannabutter (see below)
2 tbsp water, room temperature
1 cup dark brown sugar
½ cup white sugar

Flavor & Structure:
2 tsp vanilla extract
1 large egg
1 large egg yolk

Mix-Ins:
½ cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
5 oz dark chocolate, chopped
½ cup tahini

Cannabutter: (~150mg THC total)
½ cup clarified unsalted butter
~1 gram decarboxylated cannabis (15% THC)

Use only 2 tbsp of this for the recipe = ~5mg THC per cookie

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Make the Cannabutter (Ahead of Time): Gently infuse ½ cup clarified butter with 1 gram of decarboxylated cannabis over low heat for 2–3 hours. Strain and store in an airtight container. Measure out 2 tbsp of the cannabutter.

2. Brown Remaining Butter: In a small saucepan, brown 6 tbsp of regular butter until golden and nutty. Let it cool slightly, then mix in the 2 tbsp cannabutter so the total butter = 1 cup.

3. Mix Dry Ingredients: In a medium bowl, whisk together bread flour, all-purpose flour, salt, baking soda, and espresso powder.

4. Cream Butter & Sugars: In a large mixing bowl, combine the melted (browned + cannabis) butter with brown sugar and white sugar. Add the water, tahini, and vanilla extract. Mix until smooth.

5. Add Eggs: Beat in the egg and egg yolk until fully incorporated.

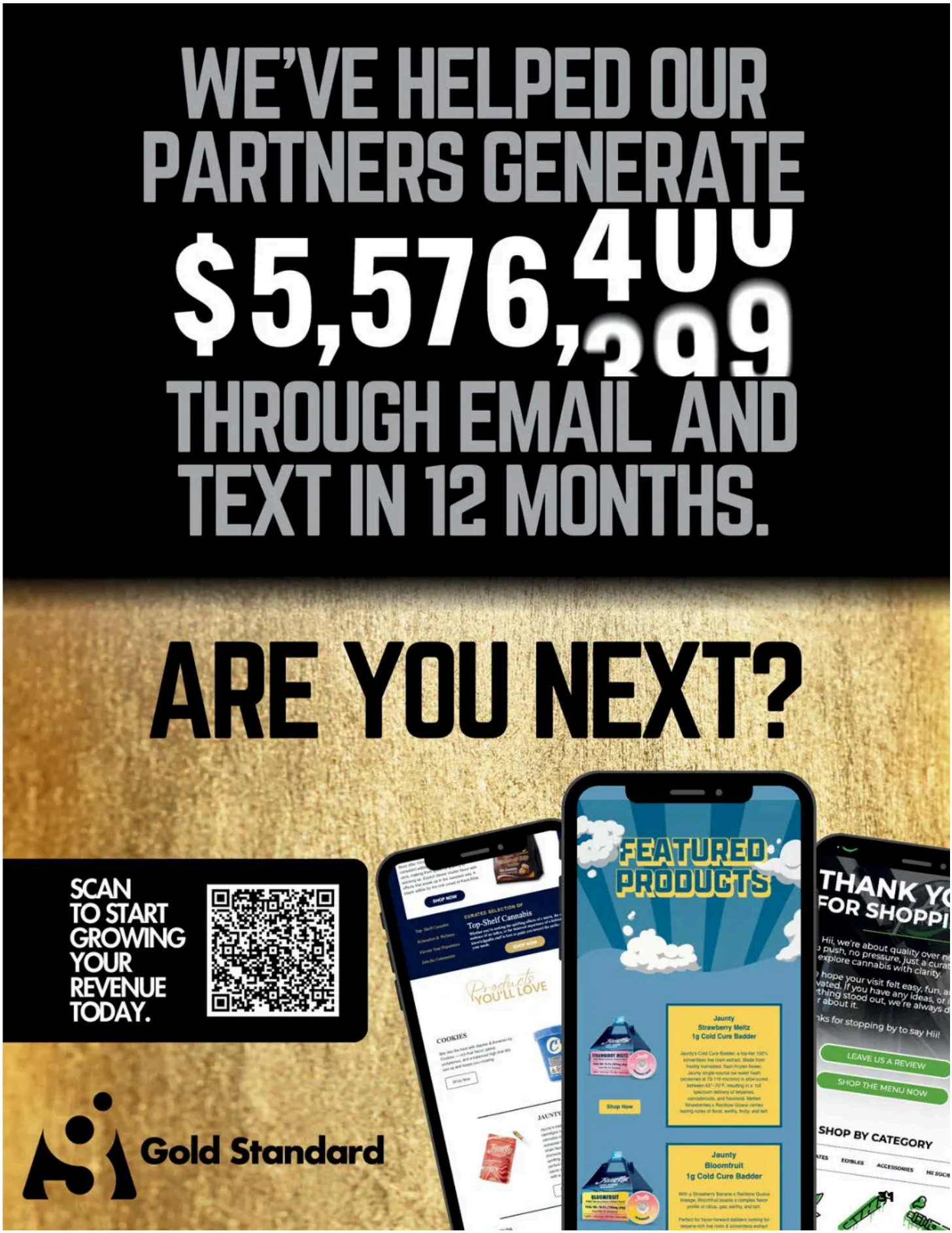
6. Combine Wet & Dry: Gradually mix in the dry ingredients until a dough forms. Fold in chocolate chips and chopped dark chocolate.

7. Chill the Dough: Cover and refrigerate the dough for at least 1 hour (or overnight for deeper flavor and texture).

8. Preheat & Scoop: Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C). Scoop cookie dough into ~2 tbsp portions onto a parchment-lined baking sheet.

9. Bake: Bake for 10–12 minutes or until the edges are golden and centers are just set.

10. Cool & Enjoy: Let cookies cool on the baking sheet for 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack. Each cookie contains ~5mg THC.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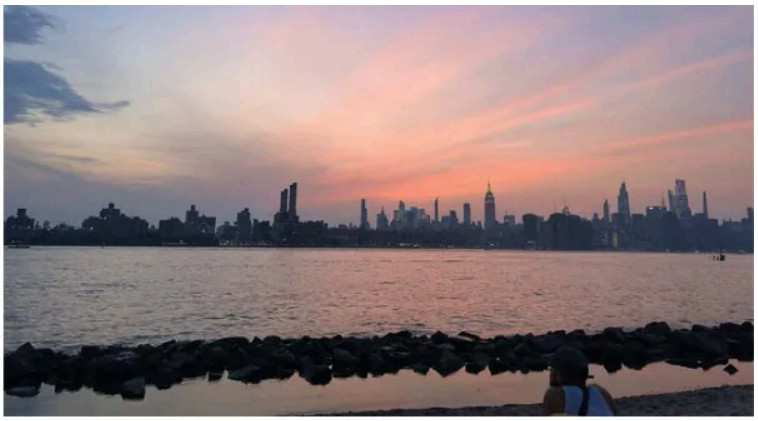


Canna-dates!

Adventures While High with Your Girl or Your Guy

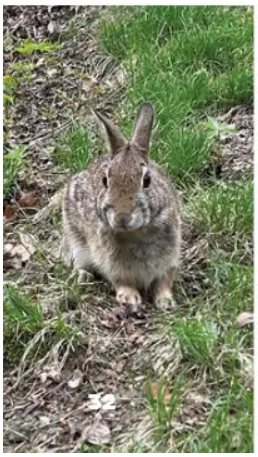
by Rachel Port

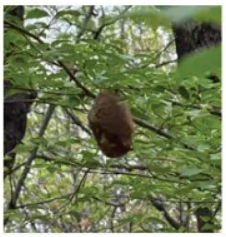
Hallett Nature Sanctuary

A Secret Garden Fairytale

When I first posted on my social media that I had started going on Canna-dates with people, a guy from college reached out and said, "Come to NYC, I would love to do a canna-date!"—of course, I replied, "I live in NYC!" I have lived here for 12 years. After meeting up once for a lunch catch-up, he randomly invited me to meet in Central Park one day. I would not normally travel from East WIlliamsburg to the park for a random weekday afternoon, but I had a doctor's appointment uptown, after which I was already planning to stop at my favorite spot in the park—so I took him there.

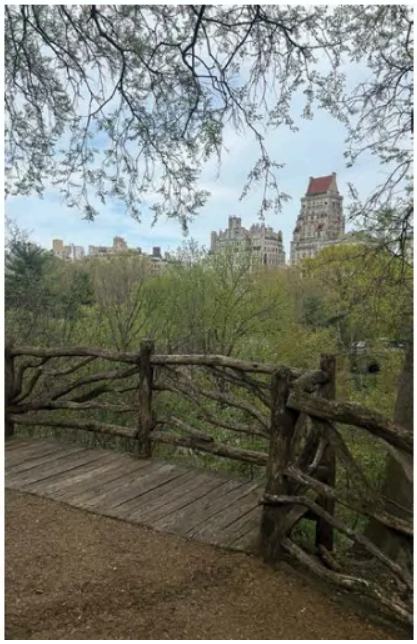
Central Park overflows with hidden gems. Shakespeare's Garden, The Ramble, Belvedere Castle, the Alice in Wonderland Statue. I still have not ventured north of the Reservoir. Last fall on Instagram (I should just call it my second home at this point), I saw a Reel about this cute little place called Hallett Nature Sanctuary on the south east end of the park, just across from The Plaza. Why had I never known about this spot? The first time I visited, it was fairly dead. Literally—the trees, bushes, everything was in hibernation mode, and there were only 5 people there, including a man serving raw in-shell peanuts to the squirrels. When I went in the spring, life had begun to bloom.





Hallett Nature Sanctuary only allows 20 visitors in at a time, and the entrance remains somewhat hidden—you kind of have to know it's there to find it. We met up at the bridge nearby and walked to the sanctuary. We walked up the path to a set of handmade wooden benches placed around a tree. It felt like something out of the fairytale "Hansel and Gretel." I sat down to eat my lunch and he took out a 30 mg piece of cannabis chocolate from the good old delivery service Private Jet; they have been around since before my NYC time. I took a very tiny bite, hoping for 5mg max—he ate the rest!

We took a leisurely stroll around the sanctuary and noticed that the wildlife was in full swing. I must've seen (and heard) at least five different kinds of birds, many squirrels (one black one), a rabbit, and guess what?! A little bat hanging from underneath a leaf! At first I thought someone had disposed of a kiwi. I firmly believe that cannabis and other plant medicines connect you back to the earth from whence you came.



Williamsburg Waterfront

Skyline-Sweeping Views

As living beings, we are naturally inclined to seek water. Living in North Brooklyn for the past nine years, I've had the pleasure of being just a bike ride away from the Williamsburg Waterfront. Although you cannot get into the East River—I mean, you can, but… you don't want to—it is truly lovely to look toward Manhattan during sunset.

For this canna-date, I met up with a new acquaintance at I'Milky Williamsburg for some boba tea. I don't drink coffee so I'm always looking for alternatives. Turns out, he doesn't even like boba. I inquired, "Why not?" and he said he just doesn't like it, or any chewy candy. My first thought is that this man is crazy. Who doesn't like Sour Patch Kids and Swedish Fish? I didn't offer him the cannabis gummies in my fanny pack like I had planned. Luckily, he had an unidentified joint with him.

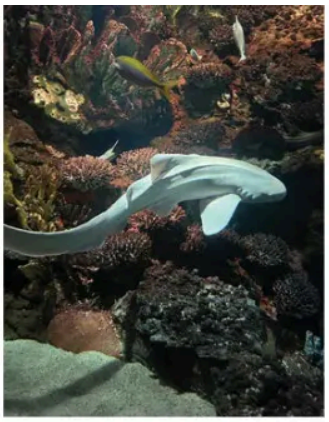
We walked to Domino Park and had a little Walk & Talk along the Williamsburg Waterfront. I couldn't get the chewy candy thing out of my head. I had the inkling to ask him how his digestive system is working and he said, "Poorly."

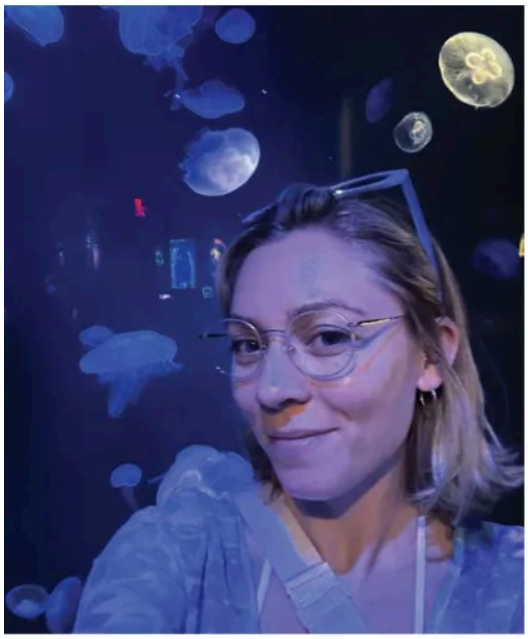
"So maybe you just don't like chewing," I questioned him gently.

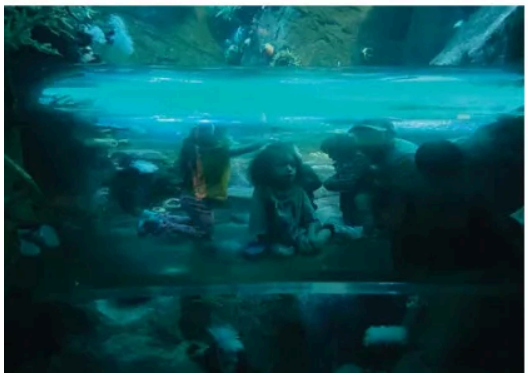
"You know what… I think you're onto something," he replied.

We walked all the way up to Marsha P. Johnson State Park to watch the sunset at Williamsburg's famous beach.

Two days later, he texted me, "I've actually been trying to chew my food better lmao."







Coney Island Aquarium

A Feast for High Eyes

My date picked me up (in a car, wild) at 3pm on a Saturday. He showed up wearing the same mushroom shirt that I wore to bed almost every night while I was traveling last year. Great minds.

On the way there, we tried some **Florist Farms Strawberry Social Gummies**. When we finally got to the aquarium—about an hour away from my place—I asked if he was "trained in the art of taking photos." I have never asked if someone could take a photo of me this way, but it is an art and this is for a magazine so, as the Creative Director of this magazine, of course, I wanted to get the photos right. I was obsessed with this fish that wasn't on any of the plaques, so I took a picture with it. It reminded me of Glove from "The Yellow Submarine," my favorite movie since I was little. I am now learning it is called the Bluespine Unicornfish (of course). Another outstanding name was the Spotted Wobbegong.

We spent a lot of time with the fish, reading their titles, amused by their oddly shaped, though sleek bodies. Before we went into the Spineless exhibit, we shared a **Scandalous Cannabis Dark Chocolate** with quinoa crunch. I saw a picture of a nudibranch on the wall and almost—excuse my French—lost my shit. Nudibranchs are beautiful, unique, highly vibrant, tiny, colorful sea slugs. They have been my favorite animal since I was 10 years old, and I have never seen one in real life. Alas, there were none.

All of a sudden, while we were mesmerized by little white jellyfish, they announced they were closing in 10 minutes. We didn't get to finish all the exhibits, well, because we got high. No, it was really because we got there an hour before it closed. Note to self: plan better.

So we left and spent a little bit of time at the beach, because why go all the way to the beach in New York City and not step foot on the beach?

Have you ever coughed while you were laughing? Now put the hiccups on top of it. This trifecta happened to me while we were trying to sing "Bohemian Rhapsody" at the beach while he was learning the chords on the guitar right then and there. It was hilarious. I laughed, I coughed, I got the hiccups. And I couldn't stop! Just a mix of all three for a few minutes.

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Behind The Glow

by Alexander Krinsky

I wonder if past generations ever woke up this young and thought, "Wow, I really am living in the future." I'm sure it happened with the invention of electricity, but I doubt it rolled out as fast as things have for us millennials. We wear our past proudly—we remember what it felt like to go outside, to live before our attention was taken so easily and efficiently.

For me, though, it's not just technology that makes me feel like the future is now. It's remembering how weed used to be. Not the weed itself—that's better, sometimes too much better—but the world around it. What used to have a secret language, passed in whispers and nods, is now a regulated, respected industry, shouted from rooftops and billboards. And that's a good thing. It should be celebrated and shared.

But I still find myself thinking about how it used to feel. There was a magic in it—a soft, stoned intimacy. An entire mythology grew out of j-rides and the quiet trust exchanged over a dime bag.

The risk of those days created connection. It was about discretion, about being part of something you discovered. Still, much like childhood, because of how fast everything happened it's hard to know: was it the system that changed things or was it just time?

To reflect, I went to where that magic was born, home to Greenwich, CT to have a beer with the guy who made it all happen—my best friend, Vince.

Vince was the guy in high school. He was tall, kind, he could do a standing backflip, everyone knew him. He was also the plug. He sold bud all throughout our 20s—it was his real job. Now, he works construction.

"I started selling when I was 14," he told me, grabbing his beer glass with a calloused palm. "At first, it was just fun—smoking with friends, feeling like you were part of something." But that sense of belonging slowly turned into something more. "It became a job. I bought cars with that money, went on vacations, and paid rent. I never thought it'd go that far."

And it did go far, he was making 20 deals a day raking in tens of thousands at his peak, when oil was flowing out from the West, but he never made the leap. "It got to a point where I thought, 'Maybe I could do this legally.' But out here, you gotta have a business plan. You've got to have the money."

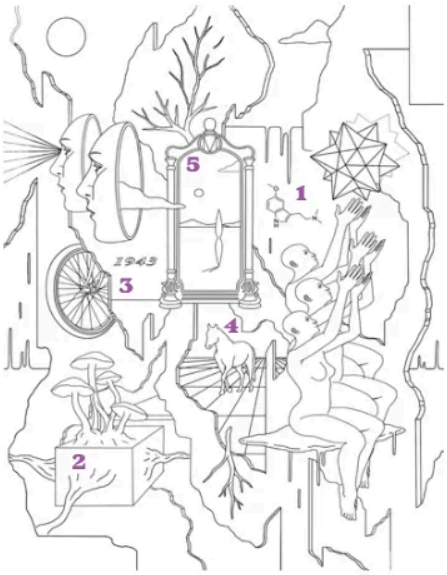
To get to that point, at that time, he would've had to take on even more risk, but he had other priorities. "I come from a family that is known in this town for being good people—so that was something that made me apply the brakes to what I was doing," he added. While he was breaking, everything else was speeding up: dispensaries, edibles, lotions/salves, incredible marketing, some of the best any industry has ever seen.

Vince didn't get a brand. He didn't open a dispensary. But for a long time, he gave people something you could never bottle: a moment, a connection, a friend. That version of weed wasn't built to last—but it was real. And as everything moves faster, slicker, more officially, it's worth remembering that the future we're living in was also shaped by people like him.

Maybe it wasn't just the system or just time. Maybe it was both. And maybe the magic's not gone—it's just harder to see. But if you were there, even once, you can still feel it. You still know where it started, just behind the glow.

ABOUT THE COVER

Felipe Umbral is a multi-disciplinary artist from Mexico based in NYC, with an inclination towards muralism and tattoo as a means of expression. His work can be seen in various countries and museums. Lawyer by profession, he used to work for the government and corporate litigation for over five years. After that, he decided to drop law and become a full-time artist. His art is generated when the need for progressive knowledge arises, in understanding the interaction between the different planes that make the being; matter and energy. It also exemplifies states of mind, transformational experiences, and tools that lead us to a better self in a spiritual and existential way. All of this is represented by surreal perspective, abstract landscapes, nature, the human body, and geometry.



1. DMT
2. Psilocybin
3. LSD
4. Ketamine
5. MDMA

This piece is a visionary tapestry of psychedelia, where every element unveils a journey beyond the self. The dual faces symbolize the dissolution of the ego, at the right of the composition a sumblimating female body holds the dodecahedron, a sacred geometry form representing the ascension, space, universal energy and the cosmic consciousness. Fractured portals open like wounds in reality and each of them reveals the altered states of mind. Through them, the master substances can transcend over any generational, familiar, or cultural layers that make the human being, giving us the chance to find the divine knowledge within ourselves and walk the path toward self-realization.

SACRED GROUND

How Little Beach Harvest is Redefining Indigenous Cannabis

by Peter Shafran

Where Shinnecock Sovereignty Meets Modern Cannabis Commerce

Little Beach Harvest isn't just another dispensary. Housed in a sleek, modern building with high ceilings and natural light on Shinnecock Nation territory in Southampton, this is a testament to resilience, community, and the complex intersection of tribal sovereignty and cannabis commerce.

Since opening in early 2024, Little Beach Harvest has quickly established itself as a premium destination in New York's burgeoning cannabis scene. However, for Product Marketing Manager (and soon-to-be Assistant General Manager) Jay Wright, it represents something far more significant.

"This place wouldn't be here if it wasn't for our elders," Wright explains, gesturing around the thoughtfully designed space. "Making sure our community wanted this in the first place was our essential first step." This community-first approach permeates everything at Little Beach Harvest.

While the Shinnecock Nation's historical relationship with plants centered more on hemp than cannabis, their approach to such a modern venture remains rooted in traditional values of sharing, harvesting, and nurturing.

"We're still sharing the bounty, still harvesting, still making sure we're nurturing within even the cannabis side," Wright says. "Whatever we're doing, we're bringing that back into the community around us in a safe and secure way."

Beyond THC: Education as Medicine

In an industry often fixated on THC percentages, Little Beach Harvest has built its reputation on a more nuanced approach. Wright emphasizes the importance of terpenes and proper education about the plant's medicinal properties.

"I get people all the time asking for 30% THC," he notes. "But it's my job to educate them that you don't need something that high in potency to actually work for you. If you follow the science of this medicinal plant, it's there."

This educational approach isn't just marketing, rather a commitment to service that Wright sees as directly connected to indigenous values around medicine and community care. The staff at Little Beach Harvest pride themselves on taking time with customers, whether they're experienced users or first-timers.

"That's the only way to separate yourself from other dispensaries: by becoming useful to your community instead of just turning over dollars and getting people in and out the door," Wright explains.

Sovereignty and State Regulations

Operating at the intersection of tribal sovereignty and state regulations presents unique challenges. One significant hurdle: New York State's cannabis regulatory body prevents licensed New York brands from doing business with sovereign dispensaries like Little Beach Harvest.

"It's a slap in the face," Wright says, clearly frustrated by restrictions that limit collaboration with state-licensed cultivators and brands. "We want to build relationships. We want that place at the table because we are doing it right, if not better."

Despite these challenges, Little Beach Harvest has created pathways for collaboration, including inter-tribal commerce with the Seneca Nation and facilitating testing for indigenous producers who might otherwise struggle with access.

Community Impact

When Little Beach Harvest first opened, its clientele skewed significantly older—45 and up, sometimes reaching 90. Now, thanks to strategic marketing and product curation, the dispensary attracts a broader age range starting at 21.

What's particularly meaningful is how the dispensary has transformed relationships with the surrounding non-indigenous community. Local doctors recommend patients to Little Beach Harvest, and customers travel from as far as Montauk, about an hour away.

Wright has observed increased "representation, love, and support" between businesses, with many expressing pride in seeing the Shinnecock Nation develop successful entrepreneurial ventures. "People are happy and proud that Shinnecock itself is doing something for itself, instead of just being stuck," Wright reflects. "We're becoming our own entrepreneur, our own thing."

The dispensary also serves as an educational resource about the Shinnecock Nation for visitors. While only about 20% of the nation's approximately 1,600 members regularly shop at Little Beach Harvest, many stop by simply to see the space—something Wright welcomes.

"I don't need you to purchase. This place is here for you," he says of tribal members. "I at least just want you to come down here, just to show a face, to understand this is yours."

Beyond Business: Building a Legacy

For Wright, Little Beach Harvest isn't merely a business opportunity but a long-term investment in the Shinnecock Nation's future. "This is not just a money grab thing. This is for the betterment of our generations ahead of me," he explains. "I'm not reaping any benefit from this as is, but when my grandchildren can reap the benefit, that's what's important." This perspective influences how Little Beach Harvest selects business partners, focusing on those who share values around cannabis culture and community impact rather than just profit.

"It should be love and passion behind this plant," Wright says. "That's what sets your business model for longevity. You become something different when you have more purity behind this."

As New York's cannabis market continues to evolve, Little Beach Harvest stands as both a successful business and a cultural bridge—one that honors indigenous traditions while embracing modern cannabis culture, serving both the Shinnecock community and cannabis enthusiasts across Long Island.

"Cannabis is a social plant," Wright concludes. "It needs you to grow, and it needs your energy—and it has to be good energy."

In that spirit, Little Beach Harvest isn't just selling cannabis; it's cultivating community, one thoughtfully curated product at a time.

Cannabis Rescheduling Debate Intensifies as Equity Advocates Raise Legal Concerns

by Veronica "Vee" Castillo

As cannabis rescheduling discussions evolve at the federal level, legal experts and equity advocates are examining the potential unintended consequences of regulatory changes on social justice initiatives. The ongoing debate over moving cannabis from Schedule I to III classification has highlighted complex questions about how federal reform might affect state-level equity programs designed to include communities most impacted by prohibition.

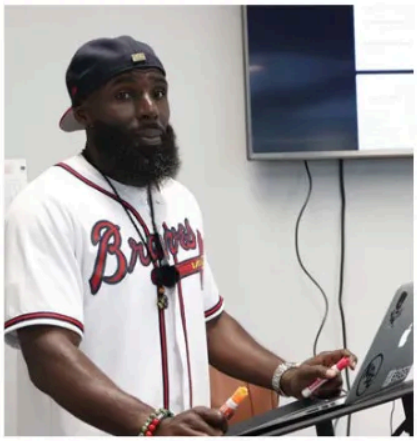
Brandon L. Wyatt, Esquire, a Howard Law-trained attorney, combat veteran, and board member of the Minority Cannabis Business Association (MCBA), offers insight into the legal challenges that could emerge from federal cannabis reform. His analysis focuses on how rescheduling and potential descheduling might affect minority cannabis entrepreneurs and existing state equity frameworks.

Legal Implications of Schedule III Classification

The proposed rescheduling to Schedule III presents a complex mix of opportunities and obstacles for cannabis businesses, particularly those operating under social equity programs. When asked about how Schedule III status might create both opportunities and limitations for social equity businesses, Wyatt highlighted significant operational concerns.

"Schedule III doesn't mean freedom. It means medical oversight, FDA approvals, and federal gatekeeping," Wyatt explained. While businesses might benefit from tax relief, the compliance requirements could create barriers. "Most social equity licensees can't afford the buildout, compliance teams, or pharmaceutical-grade operations that would come with federal medical classification."

This regulatory framework could disproportionately impact smaller operators who have already invested heavily in meeting state-level requirements. Wyatt noted that many of his clients who "barely made it through the permitting process" would face additional challenges if required to meet FDA standards for medical cannabis operations.



The interstate commerce implications of federal cannabis reform present another significant legal challenge. Regarding the Dormant Commerce Clause (DCC) and its potential impact on state equity programs, Wyatt warned of constitutional issues that could arise from full descheduling.

"If cannabis is descheduled fully, your state's residency rules for equity could be ruled unconstitutional. The DCC could rip right through programs built to prioritize impacted communities," he said. This could allow out-of-state operators to challenge state residency requirements and other protections designed to benefit local equity businesses.

Wyatt pointed to specific scenarios where interstate commerce could undermine local equity efforts: "Imagine an operator in Oklahoma grows cannabis dirt cheap, ships it across state lines into Maryland, and undercuts the Black-owned cultivator in Prince George's County who invested everything he had into a license, staff, and local economy."

For legal practitioners advising minority cannabis entrepreneurs during this period of regulatory uncertainty, Wyatt emphasizes practical compliance strategies. "Keep your books clean, your licenses current, and your partnerships community-first. Be nimble. Learn to pivot when policy shifts," he recommended.

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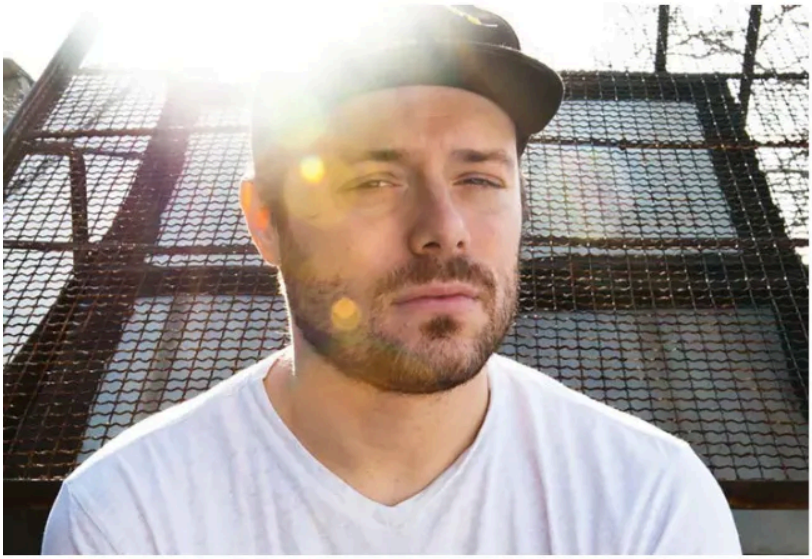
REGIONAL MUSICIAN ROUND-UP

by Pasquale Zinna

The greater New York area has never been shy of sheer talent. From germinating hip-hop and salsa's roots to the storied and sordid venues nestled across every regional city, creativity reaches a sort of terminal velocity within the boundaries of the Empire State. Its contemporary musical landscape keeps pace with its reputation as an incubator of breakthrough musical voices. Artists at the height of their careers to acts that are still burning their way through the wick of the underground, the very best are fed directly from the creative feedback loop embedded within the spirit of New York. While this list leaves room to explore innumerable other nooks and crannies of Hudson-bound artists, we've highlighted a few acts from across the spectrum as a potent primer for those out of the loop on NY's finest:



Blockhead

Manhattan-born and raised, Tony Simon's Blockhead project has been a mainstay in trip-hop and hip-hop music for over 20 years. Finding his musical genesis in the waning days of New York's backpack scene, Blockhead is synonymous with the sample-collage sound, bringing larger-than-life bedroom beats to stages big and small throughout his career. His debut LP, Music by Cavelight, and his productions with acts like Aesop Rock and Billy Woods. His latest collaborations with Elliot Lipp in their eponymous LippHead project. Each has an undeniable timbre behind the Blockhead style that has kept his music front and center in the New York zeitgeist to this very day.

John Scofield

A legendary fixture and Grammy-awarded Artist in the worlds of jazz, blues, and beyond. His career as a guitarist lays out a path alongside the likes of Billy Cobham and Charles Mingus, through Miles Davis, Medeski, Martin, and Wood, Phil Lesh, and scores of artists in between. His work lives in the foreground of some of the most exceptional music from the New York metropolitan area across the last 40 years. John Scofield is considered a torch-bearer for both classic and avant-garde guitar instrumentation and composition, weaving through distinctly American styles to form an outrageous bedrock of expansive musicality. Coming up on his mid-70s, his testament to both the road and the record are undeniable and at the very core of his reputation.

Malakai

Colorado-raised and New York-made, Malakai Linden's eponymous Malakai project has charted an altogether separate course from his contemporaries in eclectic electronic music. With a catalog-wide timbre that prefers dynamics over sheer kinetics, his compositions range from downtempo mosaics to instrumental trip-hop overtures and breakbeat jaunts. He eschews the aggressive, hyper-compressed profile that is so pervasive in American electronic music, striking a balance between the listening and live experiences to provide the NY sonic tapestry with melody and harmonic interplay. His last minted EP, Breathing Room, showcases that equilibrium with the same grace that propagates the rest of his established discography, and underscores the appeal that has him slotted for performances on either side of the Atlantic.

Honey Dijon

Chicago-born Honey Redmond has been a mainstay in the global house and techno movements for 20 years, bringing a frenetic energy to the dancefloor and the charts since her foray to New York in the late 90s. Splitting her time between NYC and Berlin, her Honey Dijon moniker has been a hip-bouncing force across the entirety of her career. Blending and producing all manner of 4x4 uptempo rhythms in DJ sets that are purpose-built for the runway. As a black trans woman carving out due territory in the club scene and beyond, she's also been a vocal advocate for trans rights, visibility, and equity throughout her career. She serves as an active paragon for trans and queer representation behind the decks as much as on the dancefloor. The effusive combination of her skill sets, experiences, positioning, and living legacy have consistently kept her not just ahead of the pack, but squarely on the right side of the dance.

Free Whenever

Channeling psychedelia and world music influences through their compositions, Free Whenever has been gaining ground across the last five years as a potent frontrunner in New York's alternative and psych-rock scenes. Based in Brooklyn and following a working mantra that places their music "somewhere between Form (Saguna) and Formlessness (Nirguna)", it moves effortlessly through adjacent rhythms and motifs within their latest work, the self-titled EP, Free Whenever. Elements of dub, jazz, eastern modes, trip-hop, and melodic guitar work blend together with the kind of fluidity that makes this three-piece act a clear standout amongst their contemporaries. With their follow-up LP, Ascension, slated for release this October, they're in the prime pocket of expression and poised to deliver a killer collection of freshly minted tunes.

Psychedelics Are The Tool, Love is the Medicine

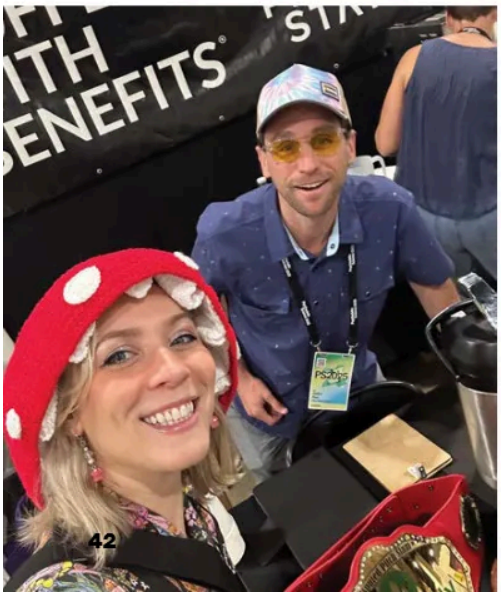
Reflections on the Psychedelic Science Conference

by Rachel Port

Psychedelic Science 2025 was a transformative experience that reminded me love is the true medicine. From breathwork that felt like coming home to panels on chronic pain, policy reform, and conscious relationships, every moment felt infused with purpose and connection. I left with a deeper understanding that psychedelics are not just about altered states, but about integrating those insights—through music, movement, and mindful action—into everyday life. The people I met, the stories I heard, and the healing I witnessed all pointed to the same truth: when we root in compassion, everything begins to bloom.

After arrival in Denver, I attended the Shroomski Magazine art show, where I bought a crocheted Amanita Muscaria mushroom cap that would become my mascot for the entire conference. From the moment I entered the convention center doors, I felt welcome. People with mushroom hats gravitated towards each other. When strangers stopped to say hello because they'd seen me earlier or to tell me they liked my hat, conversation flowed effortlessly toward the same revelation: psychedelics aren't simply chemicals; they're catalysts that remind us of what truly runs the world. Love.

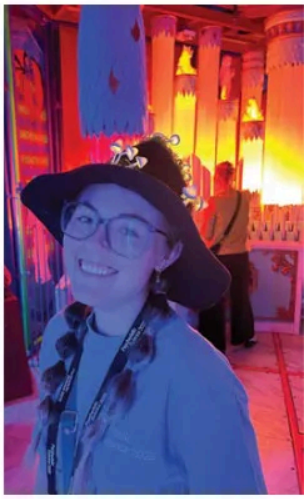
That message hit early at the screening of *Wild Magic*, a documentary crew's LSD-infused road trip across America. For 13 weeks, the filmmakers microdosed 30–50 mcg every dawn, vowing to "make a movie that was psychedelic—not a movie about psychedelics." They claimed not to have found the subjects, but that the subjects found them—including transient families and individuals who, despite everything, sang that "life is all about love and kindness." Their question to each interviewee—"What is magic to you?"—echoed in the theater like a mantra. The movie was inspirational, uplifting, poignant, profound, and joyous.



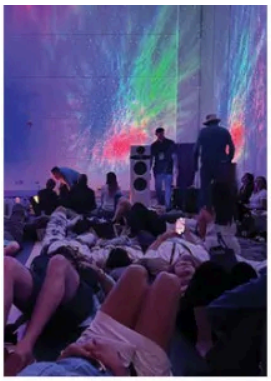
The next day, I went to the Immersion Room to hear East Forest's "Sounds for the Psychedelic Practitioner." What I discovered was Leland Holgate Sr.'s "Welcome Home Method," a peer-reviewed breathwork-and-music practice designed for spinal-injury patients yet potent for everyone. Lying in front of $85,000 speakers, I felt waves of energy move like warm water from my scalp to my tingling fingertips and toes, exactly when he predicted they would.

"5,000 more neural pathways run from ear to brain than eye to brain," he reminded us; "music is medicine." He urged us not to fill our brains with TV, and instead, to listen to music. He suggested that "everyone should love and give more… Share as much love as you're able to." I stayed to hear Pink Floyd's *Wish You Were Here*. I returned every day to experience this breathwork journey. I brought a new friend on day two, and we breathed together through Pink Floyd's *The Dark Side of the Moon*. Surges of euphoria rippled through my body—gentle, loving, familiar, home. It was absolute bliss.

At a chronic pain talk led by Lorien Chavez from the Chacruna Institute, I heard how the speaker's mucosal lining had deteriorated from constant fight-or-flight responses. She used ayahuasca and psilocybin not to escape pain but to "re-carve" neural highways. Pain teaches purpose if we listen. Psychedelics provide the neuroplastic window—to choose new routes. Her words landed personally. Hearing her, I realized my body isn't an adversary; it's a classroom.



Of all sessions, the "Love & Psychedelics: Intimacy to Break-Ups" panel felt closest to home—I was nodding throughout. Therapist Tommaso Barba warned that psychedelic experiences can take down your "protectors." MDMA makes you more empathetic, can expose complex truths, and can press fast-forward on romance, flooding roots with fertilizer before they anchor.



"Love is a skill, not a feeling," he said, "something you develop through conversations, doing dishes, conflicts." Annie Lalla framed break-ups as graduations; psychedelics can help keep the poetry of the relationship intact if introduced ethically. Integration—sober conversations, boundaries, quotidian tasks—must follow any cosmic connection.

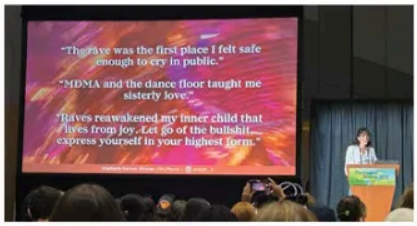
Musicologist Stephanie Karzon Abrams traced a lineage from campfire drums to Ibiza's Amnesia club to Burning Man's sound camps, dubbing dance floors "spaces of expanded consciousness." On the following panel "Between Ecstasy and Escapism: Raving as a Contemporary Ritual," DJ/Healer Taylor Bratches called raving a "contemporary ritual of release"—a place where trauma survivors rehearse freedom in their own skin. Growing up shy, she said, dancing was revolutionary. I feel that truth weekly.

Serendipity threaded every corridor: running into a breathwork teacher from Mexico; discovering Leland knew my first DMT-breath teacher; being dubbed "the Carrie Bradshaw of Psychedelics" by a pink-glitter-eyeshadowed stranger. Each meeting felt orchestrated by the same mycelial network Paul Stamets says binds forests—the one scientists now suspect psilocybin merely reminds us we inhabit.

Throughout the week, people spoke about love being what psychedelics taught them most. People who have never tried them suddenly experience life in a completely different way because they can finally see the light and the love that connection between humans, animals, and nature creates. Anyone who's experienced trauma would more likely than not benefit from a therapeutic psychedelic experience. I left for the airport in wonder. Full of joy. Full of love! Full of appreciation for all the people doing what I believe to be some of the most important work in the world. The work that makes people feel better in their bodies, their minds, their hearts, everywhere. What a gift to be able to share stories, studies, breath, and experience with thousands of people who want to learn and make the world a better place through these learnings. My heart is absolutely bursting.

I found myself telling complete strangers the story of my chronic pain, and receiving true compassion from everyone. I felt safe and vulnerable enough to share. The people there truly care about the wellbeing of others. Coming from a place of love is the only way to heal. When you've been stuck in a fear response for so long, your body adapts and accepts that fear as reality. When many of us are in pain, we all suffer. Collective trauma is so abundant—it always has been throughout history, and especially right now. That's why this work is so important. Imagine a world where love ruled instead of fear.

Kyle Heroy, COO of Toadwood Labs in Portland, Oregon, reflected, "I went to MAPS thinking I'd maybe find a little peace—what I found was a galaxy. Healers, wizards, shamans, beautiful strangers who saw through the noise and held up a mirror to my soul. And somehow, in the quiet between us, I found family. My Star Tribe. People who reminded me how to love myself—gently, honestly, and without shame. I showed up broken. They didn't fix me—they found me. And in that, I found hope. Real, cosmic, hold-you-when-you-cry hope."


"The rave was the first place I felt safe enough to cry in public."
"MDMA and the dance floor taught me sisterly love."
"Raves reawakened my inner child that lives from joy. Let go of the bullshit... express yourself in your highest form."

The contrast hit hardest back in New York. Coming home from the Coney Island Mermaid Parade just 12 hours after landing, a stranger's "Hey baby, what's up baby," pierced my post-conference glow. While eye contact and connection at the conference were abundant, eye contact on these sidewalks can misfire. Yet even that tension clarifies the mission: to import the conference's radical openness into places where fear still governs public space. Love is easy in a room full of like-minded seekers; the real test is offering it to the hurried commuter, the skeptical cop, the version of myself bracing for catcalls.

On the plane home, Spotify's Discover Weekly served the perfect dreamy, nostalgic soundtrack my heart requested, and I wrote: Psychedelics are a tool; love is the medicine. Several days of lectures distilled to that single, cellular truth. It's not dosage but duration in altered states that rewires us; it's not ecstatic peak but careful integration that cements change. When we unlearn fear, *matri* (generous compassion), *bhakti* (selfless devotion), *shringara* (rapturous intimacy), and *kama* (body-love) can coexist—and eventually culminate in *atma prema:* I am love.

I return to Brooklyn lighter, glowing, yes—but also tasked. The psychedelic renaissance isn't a spectator's sport; it's a participatory spell. My next steps are humble: practice the Welcome Home Method, treat my pain as a teacher, dance without apology, and remember that every stranger might be part of my mycelial family. If reality is "stranger than we can think," as *Wild Magic* suggests, then maybe the strangest—and most revolutionary—thought is simply this: a civilization powered by love is not naïve; it is overdue.

REQUIEM FOR THE Psychedelic Assembly ... for now

by Jack Gorsline

While my previous contribution to The Other Magazine detailed the idiosyncratic existence of the Psychedelic Assembly in midtown Manhattan, I now present news that is partly somber yet largely optimistic. The Psychedelic Assembly, as chronicled in The Other's Spring 2025 issue, has ceased to operate in its original form.

The iconic Athenaeum art gallery and its labyrinthine dance hall, a central hub for the global psychedelic community, announced in May their departure from their initial premises, a relocation not entirely by choice.

Admittedly, I had the privilege of visiting The Athenaeum only twice before its permanent closure. However, the second visit proved undeniably monumental, as Friday, June 6th, marked the final Friday RESET, the rave hosted by the Psychedelic Assembly at their original headquarters.

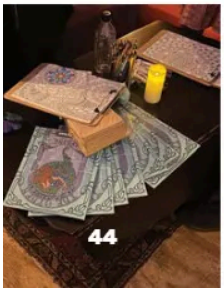
In the company of both long-standing acquaintances and newfound connections, alongside a few fellow journalists, I will forever cherish (or at least recall segments of) the night I spent dancing at a truly unparalleled haven for psychonautical explorers, weary locals, and transient seasonal residents from across the globe.

Quintessentially New York in its essence, The Psychedelic Assembly, in its inception and current transformation, will undoubtedly endure both in spirit and in a new physical manifestation. Therefore, for the present, we must bid a formal farewell to The Psychedelic Assembly as we once knew it. As New York as anything ever was - The Psychedelic Assembly as it was born and has now once-died will surely live on both in spirit and brick-and-mortar form.

In a statement provided to The Other exclusively for this article, Psychedelic Assembly co-founder Suzy Baker offered remarks both poignant and optimistic - a clear sign of great things to come for the Assembly's next iteration.

"[RESET]: Summer of Love was one for the books! The night ended in a giant group hug on the dance floor, a beautiful sendoff to our beloved Athenaeum"—Baker said, pointing out that the members-only library was (and will still be) "the world's first psychedelic library and social club."

"But this is just the beginning." Baker's statement concluded, "The Psychedelic Assembly is expanding beyond our Midtown walls, with events popping up all over NYC—and soon, across the country. (Yes, we're buying a bus!) Deep gratitude to this community—we couldn't do it without you."



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"AS IF I BECAME THE SOUND"

HEALING MENTAL HOUNDS WITH MIND-ALTERING VIBRATIONS

by Jessica Klein

Patients arrive at music therapist Eric Fraser's office in Germantown, New York with 400-milligram ketamine lozenges in hand. Prescribed by an outside clinic, these lozenges help guide the therapeutic journey as patients lie back on a comfortable bed wearing eye masks while gentle flute music emanates from a speaker or Fraser's own instrument. The sound steers the rest.

"The music is the director," says Fraser. "Like the hidden therapist."

Music is no incidental part of the ketamine therapy experience in Fraser's practice. Without the "essential" ingredient of music, he insists, ketamine-assisted therapy isn't as "immersive, moving, colorful, or emotional."

Fraser's not alone. Research has found that music "plays a central therapeutic function in psychedelic therapy." While ketamine promotes neuroplasticity (the brain's ability to make new connections) and dissociation (which can grant users distance from their traumas or negative thought patterns), music affects regions of the brain that focus on emotions, hearing, and memory. It can "regulate mood, induce catharsis, and facilitate emotional breakthroughs," says Dr. Steven Radowitz, Chief Medical Officer at Nushama, a New York City-based psychedelic wellness center. "When done together, ketamine opens a psychological window, and music guides the experience—like a soundtrack to an inward journey…the music can help access feelings that are otherwise blocked."

Seeing the Sound

With blocks removed, healing can happen most effectively when tailored to individuals and guided by therapists. Both Radowitz and Fraser have patients set intentions before embarking on their musical, ketamine-induced experiences.

For Fraser's patients, that looks like a regular, hour-long therapy session in which they lay out their goals for the ensuing mental journey. Then it's time to don the eye masks, which most ketamine therapists have their patients wear to facilitate focusing inward, where sounds take precedence over other external stimuli. Though Fraser says patients tend not to speak during their peaks, he observes hints of the music/ketamine combo's profound effects in sighs and heavy breathing.

When the effects start to subside about 45 minutes later, the patient and therapist regroup. They "explore insights, emotions, or memories that surfaced, sometimes using the music as a touchstone," Radowitz says. Maybe a particular crescendo evoked an important childhood memory, or a string instrument offered calm during an intense moment of revisiting trauma. Fraser says patients often experience synesthesia, in which they can "hear" colors or "see" sound—a sign that "parts of the brain that don't usually interact are interacting."

Avoiding Lyrical Influence

For these experiences, therapists prefer music without lyrics to sidestep influence by words. "We're trying to get associations out of the way so what's being experienced is a projection of a person's mind," Fraser explains.

At intravenous ketamine care provider Ember Health, which has five locations across Brooklyn and Manhattan, cofounder and CEO Dr. Nico Grundmann plays "continuous tracks" to avoid gaps between songs. Since ketamine can impair the sense of time, songs ending can disorient patients by marking time's passage. Grundmann tends to use tracks that feature string instruments or natural sounds like running water. Radowitz plays the "cinematic" works of composer/pianist Max Richter or "ethereal world music" by Sigur Rós. Fraser, who's trained in classical Indian music, often plays the bansuri flute, an ancient, bamboo-made instrument.

"A lot of times I hear people say, 'I've never felt sound like that,'" Fraser says. "'It was amazing, as if I became the sound.'"

Across: Microdose, 2025 by John Gay. *a figure artist that is inspired by ancient cultural mythology and folklore, depicting ancient deities and psychedelic imagery, cultivating a unique display of what nature has for us.*

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How Psychedelics Work in Your Brain

by Dr. Manesh Girn, PhD

Psychedelics, like psilocybin (i.e., magic mushrooms) and LSD, have long been associated with mystical visions, ego dissolution, and expanded states of awareness. As far-out and profound as these experiences can be, modern neuroscientists are increasingly grounding them in very concrete biological processes. Research is steadily revealing a clearer picture of how psychedelic therapy can reshape brain function in ways that can support psychological healing and personal growth.

A Quick Primer on the Brain

Your brain is a dense network of about 100 billion neurons, constantly communicating through electrical and chemical signals. These signals are transmitted via molecules called neurotransmitters, which bind to receptors on neighboring neurons. One of the most important neurotransmitters for mood, cognition, and perception is serotonin.

Unconstraining the Mind and Brain: The Serotonin 2A Receptor

Psychedelics work by binding to several receptor types in the brain including over a half-dozen serotonin receptor types, but the serotonin 2A receptor is most critical. If you block this receptor, no amount of psilocybin mushrooms or LSD will make you trip. These receptors are found in parts of the brain that are critical for our ability to reflect on ourselves, imagine the future, and make sense of the world.

When a psychedelic binds to this receptor, it sends the brain into an entirely different mode that is more dynamic, interconnected, and far less constrained. Usual patterns of activity are disrupted and new lines of communication open between brain regions that don't typically interact. One way to picture this is to imagine your brain as an orchestra. Normally, each instrument follows a strict score and is in sync under the guidance of a conductor. Under psychedelics, the conductor steps aside. Musicians start improvising and tuning into each other in unexpected ways—like flutes riffing with the cellos, new harmonies emerging.

In terms of mental health, this temporary loosening of the brain can break us out of rigid ways of thinking about ourselves and our lives. When supported with care and intention, it can help facilitate insights that lead us towards a more open, connected, and aligned way of being. By creating a temporary state of chaos, a new order can arise.

Boosting Brain Plasticity

Psychedelics also potently boost neuroplasticity, your brain's ability to change, grow, and adapt. In particular, studies have found that psychedelics stimulate the physical growth of new dendrites, the branches that allow neurons to create more connections with other neurons. Remarkably, some studies have found boosts in plasticity that last over 30 days after a single experience with psilocybin.

This boost in plasticity is thought to create a temporary window of opportunity where the brain becomes more open to change. During this time, it may be easier to shift out of rigid or negative patterns, such as negative self-talk, limiting beliefs, or stuck emotional responses. This may explain why a single psychedelic experience, when combined with the right setting and support, can lead to lasting improvements in mental health. It can also explain why an anxiety and fear-filled 'bad trip' can have a deep lasting impact. Plasticity itself is neutral; what you do with it is what matters.

Final Thoughts

By understanding how psychedelics reshape the brain, we begin to see why their responsible use in clinical settings holds so much promise—not just for treating mental illness, but for expanding how we relate to ourselves and the world. As research expands, these once-misunderstood substances may prove to be some of our most powerful allies in healing and personal growth.

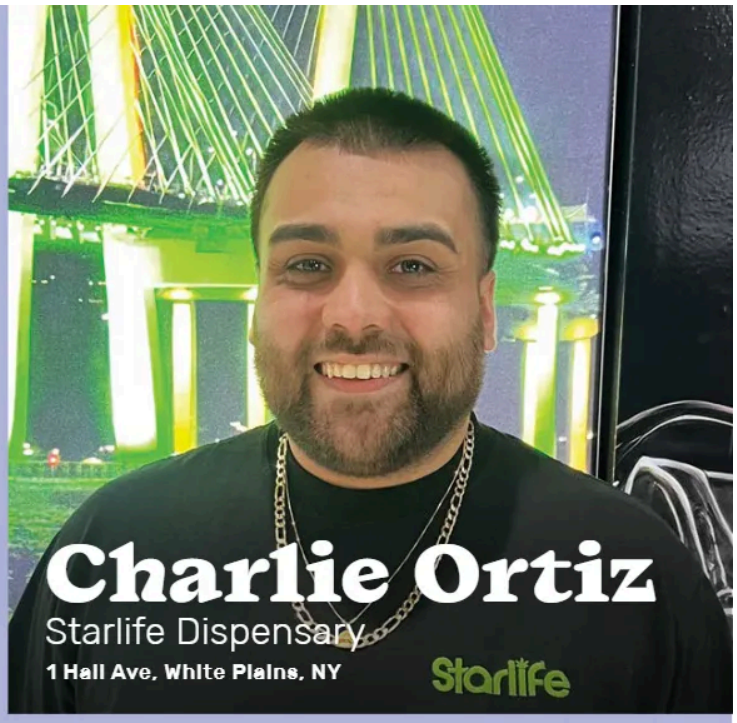
Manesh Girn is a neuroscientist and psychedelic researcher who is dedicated to advancing our understanding of effects of psychedelics on our minds and brains, and how cutting-edge neuroscientific research can inform approaches to healing, growth, and personal transformation.

Across: Psychedelic Brain Anatomy, acrylic on canvas, 2024, by Brynja Magnusson, *an Icelandic-American artist, writer, and symbol reader in shamanic practice; disseminating archetypal wisdom systems through art as a medium of teaching and communication. She shares ancient and modern systems through self-published illustrated guidebooks, synthesizing the I Ching, animal totem symbolism, Human Design, the Gene Keys, and Yin Mysticism. As a psychedelic and visionary artist, Brynja seeks to use symbol-rich art as the vehicle that draws attention towards scientific and spiritual union in ceremony. The path between visual and written, spiritual and substantiated, ceremonial and clinical is where she believes the greatest development can occur. Ongoing research is finding areas of the brain affected by psychedelics. In this painting, brain regions most affected by psychedelics are represented by plant medicines, such as an ayahuasca brain stem, peyote cerebellum, iboga thalamus, ergot claustrum, psilocybin amygdala, amanita corpus callosum and THC/sassafras cerebral cortex.*

BUD OF THE VALLEY

Celebrating Your Favorite Budtenders

by Alan Greenwald



Summer is in full bloom, and so is our celebration of the Hudson Valley's cannabis culture heroes. Welcome to the third installment of "Bud of the Valley," where we spotlight the flower-forward minds shaping our cannabis community one recommendation at a time.

This quarter's spotlight falls on Charlie Ortiz of Starlife Dispensary in White Plains, NY, whose name kept surfacing like cream rising to the top of our reader nominations. The testimonials paint a picture of someone who's not just slinging products, but crafting experiences and matching personalities to profiles with an almost uncanny precision.

What sparked your initial interest in cannabis, and how did you become a budtender at Starlife?
I have 15 years of legacy experience in cannabis, and I got into it for the pure love of the plant. As a former athlete and current coach, I've seen too many great kids go down dark paths due to painkiller addiction after injuries. I'm in this business to help people elevate their lifestyle medicinally or recreationally, and to help educate and heal communities with cannabis as a safer alternative.

How do you stay current with the rapidly evolving cannabis landscape?
I smoke A LOT! I naturally love variety and it may be the ADHD in me, but I get bored smoking the same thing over and over again. I constantly switch up strains and products because I'm curious and have a giant thirst for knowledge. I also really appreciate brand reps who take time to have conversations with me about the industry—I use other people's experiences to boost my own knowledge.

What's your approach when someone new walks through the door?
It's pretty simple and direct: I walk right up with a big smile and say "Welcome to Starlife, my name's Charlie, nice to meet you." I gauge people based on body language and tolerance level, but most importantly, I listen to what they need. They really do the work for me; I just use my knowledge to gently guide them in the right direction. I always think, "How would I want to be treated if I was on the other side of the counter?"

How do you view your role in changing perceptions about cannabis?
I think my role as a budtender is really important, if not the most important, in altering public perception and education about cannabis. Budtenders are the front lines of the industry and the access point to information for customers. People need to trust their local budtenders and feel comfortable knowing we're knowledgeable and providing safe, clean products.

What's one thing you wish more people understood about today's legal cannabis market?
I wish more people understood that street cannabis nowadays has a high chance of being tampered with and unsafe. The reason our prices might be higher is because it reflects the quality and care that goes into legal cannabis production.

Where do you see your cannabis journey taking you next?
I plan on growing to either be a partner with the cannabis family I have now, or I'd love to own my own shop or work my way up as a chief officer in an established brand. Honestly, the possibilities are endless and I think all of those things would make me happy, so I try to stay in the moment and when an opportunity presents itself, I'll take full advantage of it.

Want to nominate your favorite budtender? Scan the QR code:

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